



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 11, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 11, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

Members present: Senators Willis, Bartlett, Azinger, Chapman, Charnock, Deeds, Fuller, Hart, Rucker, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Garcia

Members absent: Senators Helton, Martin, Maynard, Rose

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

S. B. 792 - Eliminating requirement that Supreme Court of Appeals supply magistrates with copies of WV Code.

Debra Graham, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Keith Hoover, Administrative Director, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. B. 796 - Relating to distribution of West Virginia reports.

Debra Graham, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

S. B. 643 - Discontinuing WV Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Program.

Riley Neal, Intern, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

Senator Tarr moved to amend the bill to require the remaining funds in the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Program shall be transferred to the General Fund.

With leave of the committee, Keith Hoover, Administrative Director, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, responded to questions.

Senator Tarr restated the proposed amendment adding that a section of the code will need to remain for the transfer to the General Fund and later provide a mechanism to zero out that specific line item in the budget.

The same was put and the amendment was adopted.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass as amended.

S. B. 538 - Increasing compensation for panel attorneys.

Aaron Cobb, Extern Law Clerk, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

Senator Garcia requested a ruling under the provisions of Senate Rule 43.

Chairman Willis replied that any impact of the Senator would be a member of a class of persons possibly to be affected by the passage of this bill and refused to excuse Senator Garcia from voting.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. B. 800 - Clarifying policy of state regarding jury service.

Aaron Cobb, Extern Law Clerk, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Lisa A. Tackett, Director, Division of Circuit and Family Court Services, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, was administered the oath prescribed by

Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

The question being on agreeing to the committee substitute, the same was put, and the committee substitute was agreed to.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

S. B. 793 - Relating to courthouse closures on certain days.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

On Motion of Senator Bartlett the committee adjourned.



Thomas E. Willis II
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 11th day of February, 20 26, in
the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

"I swear to tell the truth, nothing but the truth, under penalty of
false swearing, so help me God."

Keith Hoover

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 11th day of February, 2026, in
the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

“I swear to tell the truth, nothing but the truth, under penalty of
false swearing, so help me God.”

Lisa A. Tackhoff

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name